

Message Text

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42

ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-06 ISO-00 MMS-01 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-05

SAJ-01 OMB-01 EUR-08 IO-04 /070 W

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R 231026Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1758

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 2976

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PARM,1 /9

7?: POSSIBLE INDIAN OCEAN REGIONAL MEETING

REF: PORT LOUIS 793, PORT LOUIS 776

1. SINCE FINANCE MINISTER N.H. PERERA'S RECENT RETURN TO SRI LANKA, WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE UNCOVER ANY EVIDENCE THAT HIS STOP IN MAURITIUS WAS PRIMARILY FOR PURPOSE OF PROMOTING REGIONAL MEETING TO CAMPAIGN AGAINST PLANS FOR DIEGO GARCIA. MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS DIRECTOR FOR AFRICA HAS TOLD US PERERA HAD NO BRIEF ON THIS SUBJECT. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE UNLIKELY FOR PRIME MINISTER BANDARANAIKE TO ALLOW HER TROTSKYITE FINANCE MINISTER TO MEDDLE IN HER FOREIGN AFFAIRS BAILIWICK, PARTICULARLY ON AN ISSUE WHICH IMPRINGS ON HER INDIAN OCEAN ZONE OF PEACE PROPOSAL, WITH WHICH SHE IS SO CLOSELY IDENTIFIED PERSONALLY.

2. PERERA MAY HAVE BEEN FREELANCING ON THIS QUESTION IN MAURITIUS AS HE HAS SOMETIMES DONE HERE ON ANTI-U.S. ISSUES. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE IT MORE LIKELY HE SPENT MOST OF HIS TIME IN MAURITIUS TRYING TO OBTAIN 10,000
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TONS OF SUGAR, EFFORTS WHICH PRESS REPORTS HERE HAVE

DESCRIBED AS COMPLETELY SUCCESSFUL. NO REPORT YET, HOWEVER,
THAT FORMAL AGREEMENT FOR SUGAR, WHICH IN VERY SHORT
SUPPLY HERE, HAS BEEN SIGNED BUT ONLY THAT MAURITIAN
DELEGATION HAS BEEN INVITED TO COLOMBO TO DISCUSS
MATTER.
VAN HOLLEN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Draft Date: 23 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Authority: shawdg
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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